



A WOOL WAREHOUSE, SYDNEY.

WHERE WOOL IS KING

Sheep Raising is Australia's Leading Industry.

ONE MAN WHO OWNS A MILLION

What Vermont Has Done to Improve the Breed.

MARKETING THE PRODUCT

(Copyright, 1901, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

SYDNEY, Australia.

I had a chat the other day with the sheep king of Australia, the biggest sheep owner of this great sheep continent. Australia is the wool center of the world. It has more than 100 million sheep and it cuts enough wool from their backs to bring in \$100,000,000 a year. It has some of the largest flocks of sheep ever gathered together. Job's cattle upon a thousand hills cannot compare with them. There are a hundred men in New South Wales alone who each own 50,000 head; there are hundreds more who have 20,000, four hundred who each have 10,000 and many who own flocks of a thousand and upward. There are twenty-one men in this state who each own 100,000 sheep, and MacCaughy, the king of them all, has more than a million.

Think what a million sheep means! Let them weigh a hundred pounds apiece and they would give enough mutton to furnish

the people of any one of our cities with meat for a year.

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Mr. MacCaughy. "I think my crossing my breeds with the Vermont sheep has added at least a pound of wool per sheep a year to my flock. You see I have about a million sheep and an increase of this kind is worth a great deal. I have some sheep which will average 7½ pounds to the fleece, and I think by breeding that I can increase this to 15 pounds per fleece. I have had sheep which produced as much as 45 pounds of wool at one shearing, and at one time I cut 52 pounds of wool from one of our Vermont rams, and 35 pounds from a ewe. I have distributed the Vermont sheep through my flocks both in New South Wales and in Queensland, and the result is a considerable increase in the clip. We find that the sheep which come from the Vermont flock retain their wool much longer than the Australian sheep."

How a \$5,000 Sheep Looks.

I wish I could show you some of the sheep exhibited at the Sydney sheep show. There were in all 700, representing every part of Australia. Four hundred of these were Merinos, being in the fine wool class, and 300 were of the other breeds. The competition in the class for frozen mutton. Every sheep at the show was worth several hundred dollars, and some several thousands.

A \$5,000 Ram.

Among the latter was Mr. MacCaughy's \$5,000 ram, which took first prize. It was a fine specimen of the breed, with a pair of big horns at one end of it. The wool lay on it in folds and rolls, the skin apparently wrinkling itself so that it looked like a piece of old leather. The wool came out three inches over its eyes and there were small holes in it through which the eyes looked out. A student of the sheep put his finger into the fleece and could just touch the skin without putting his whole fist into it. The wool hung down in great bunches on the belly and the legs were covered clear to the hoofs. On the outside the wool was of a dirty color, but when I pulled it out it was of a creamy white. The strands of wool were spiral and springy and very fine.

In some of the stalls I saw ewes which had thirty pounds of wool on them, and everywhere I heard the praises of our Vermont sheep. I asked one man whether the sheep did not grow much better from generation to generation in so warm a country as New South Wales. He replied that they did, and that the "Vermonts" prevented this.

Among the Squatters.

The sheep owners, or squatters, as they are called, were all well dressed and well educated men. There were hundreds of them at the show. They looked more like a crowd of Yankee business men than of the rough and ready men who are usually met with in the outback. They were all landholders and many had titles. One of the most prominent was a man named King George III of England, who had originally secured them from the King of Spain.

In the Wool Warehouses.

Sydney is the chief wool market of Australia. It ships hundreds of millions of pounds of wool to Europe every year and has some of the largest wool warehouses in the world. Let us take a walk through one of them. We are in a great room covering many acres. It is roofed with glass and upon its floors are thousands of bales of wool. Each bale is as high as a man and is bound with a rope. The bales are piled up in rows, and the top of each is open and the white wool seems to have burst forth and to be pouring out upon the floor. It is marked off by lines and the wool is being packed into the bales.

Big Prices for Sheep.

It will surprise our farmers to know that it is not an uncommon thing in Australia for a blooded ram to sell for \$2,000 and upward. There are large numbers of these sheep at the moment, and a number of instances have been known in which rams have sold for a thousand guineas, or more than \$5,000 each. I have before me the highest prices of the sheep sales for the last few years. In 1900 eight sheep were sold for \$1,500 to \$5,000 each. In 1891 the highest price was \$2,500. In 1892 it was \$3,000. In 1893 it was \$4,000. In 1894 it was \$5,000. In 1895 it was \$6,000. In 1896 it was \$7,000. In 1897 it was \$8,000. In 1898 it was \$9,000. In 1899 it was \$10,000. In 1900 it was \$11,000. In 1901 it was \$12,000. In 1902 it was \$13,000. In 1903 it was \$14,000. In 1904 it was \$15,000. In 1905 it was \$16,000. In 1906 it was \$17,000. In 1907 it was \$18,000. In 1908 it was \$19,000. In 1909 it was \$20,000. In 1910 it was \$21,000. In 1911 it was \$22,000. In 1912 it was \$23,000. In 1913 it was \$24,000. In 1914 it was \$25,000. In 1915 it was \$26,000. In 1916 it was \$27,000. In 1917 it was \$28,000. In 1918 it was \$29,000. In 1919 it was \$30,000. In 1920 it was \$31,000. In 1921 it was \$32,000. In 1922 it was \$33,000. In 1923 it was \$34,000. In 1924 it was \$35,000. In 1925 it was \$36,000. In 1926 it was \$37,000. In 1927 it was \$38,000. In 1928 it was \$39,000. In 1929 it was \$40,000. In 1930 it was \$41,000. In 1931 it was \$42,000. In 1932 it was \$43,000. In 1933 it was \$44,000. In 1934 it was \$45,000. In 1935 it was \$46,000. In 1936 it was \$47,000. In 1937 it was \$48,000. In 1938 it was \$49,000. In 1939 it was \$50,000. In 1940 it was \$51,000. In 1941 it was \$52,000. In 1942 it was \$53,000. In 1943 it was \$54,000. In 1944 it was \$55,000. In 1945 it was \$56,000. In 1946 it was \$57,000. In 1947 it was \$58,000. In 1948 it was \$59,000. In 1949 it was \$60,000. In 1950 it was \$61,000. In 1951 it was \$62,000. In 1952 it was \$63,000. 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